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REVIEWS AND BOOK NOTICES.

A New English Dictionary on Historical Principles. Edited by J. A. H. MURRAY, HENRY BRADLEY and W. A. CRAIGIE. Oxford, At the Clarendon Press, 1905, 1906, 1907.

Since our last notice of the New English Dictionary (A. J. P. XXV 463-467, No. 100, 1904) twelve quarterly parts have come to hand during the years 1905, 1906 and 1907. Vol. VI has progressed from Mandragora to Monopoly (four parts), and from N to Nywe (two parts) completing the letter N; Vol. VII from Pargeter to Polygenistic (four parts); and Vol. VIII from Ree to Reserve (two parts). The letter S will be partly included in Vol. VIII; Vols. IX, X will contain the later portion of the letter S and the letters T-Z, together with some additional matter. Thus the end is in sight, and perhaps a few more years will see the completion of this monumental undertaking. We trust that Dr. Murray and his co-laborers will be spared to see the work through to a successful ending, and to receive the congratulations of an admiring world. A supplement will surely be necessary, and doubtless it is already under way, for new words are being continually added to the language. Our readers are familiar with the plan of this work and the treatment of the vocabulary, Part I having been published in 1884, and notices having appeared in this Journal annually at first, and more recently biennially, although it is now three years since the last notice was published. The historical character of the work has continued to be rigidly preserved, but, as we have had occasion to remark before, the *earliest* appearance of words is not always recorded, at least of words in familiar use in this country, but perhaps the same care has not been exercised in reading works printed in America as in reading those printed in England.

A casual example of this, taken at random from the last part that has come to hand, Niche-Nywe, dated October 1, 1907, is the word *Nullification*, defined under 2 b as U. S. with the notes: "The term app. originated with Jefferson in 1798", but the earliest example given is: "1838 H. Martineau, Western Trav. II 24, Mr. Calhoun is as full as ever of his Nullification doctrines". Perhaps the celebrated Virginia and Kentucky resolutions of 1798-99, and Mr. Madison's Report to the Virginia Legislature of 1799-1800, are unknown in England. The word *Nullification* occurs in the Kentucky resolutions of 1799 (although not in those of 1798), which, as well as those of 1798, are attributed to Mr. Jefferson. The writer cannot say that this was the *first* use of

that word, but it was used by Mr. Jefferson forty years before the example given in the quotation from Miss Martineau.

To pass from politics to philology, an interesting article is that on the word *Many*, both adjective and substantive, filling five columns, of which four are given to the adjective and one to the noun. After enumeration of the various forms, with examples from *Beowulf* on, of the familiar adjective, we have the etymological note: "O. E. had a derivative sb. *menigeo*, *menigu*, multitude", with cognates in other Teutonic languages. "The O. E. sb., however, did not survive into M. E., and the modern substantival use of *many*, though agreeing in sense with O. E. *menigeo*, was a new development which has not been found earlier than the 16th c."

Turning now to the last column, on the substantive, we find: "On the analogy of *a few*, *a* has from the 16th c. been prefixed to *many*, when followed by a pl. sb. or used *absol.* in plural sense. In such collections *many* formally admits of being interpreted as a sb., meaning 'a great number'. This interpretation is somewhat strained when *a many* is immediately followed by a pl. sb., because the ellipsis of *of*, which must be assumed, is abnormal; but in the other cases it presents no difficulty, and it would often be impossible to determine whether in the consciousness of the speaker the word is an adj. used *absol.* in pl., or a genuine sb."

But it is not yet all plain sailing, for there follows immediately, "Confusion with *Meinie*, of which there are many traces in the 16th c., seems to have contributed to cause the word in this use to be apprehended as a sb." So especially when preceded by adjectives "*a* with pl. sb. (or *people*) immediately following. In this use *a many* hardly differs in sense from *many*, and is now somewhat rare in literary use, though *a good many*, *a great many*, are common colloquially."

Here follow examples from Marlowe, 1590, on: "b. Const. *of*; now only followed by a definite sb. or pronoun. (Some early quotes. may belong to *Meinie*)". Examples are given from Lord Berners, 1525, on.

"c. *ellipt.* and *absol.* (Quotes. 1556 and 1564 may belong to *Meinie*).". Examples are given from Shakspeare on.

"d. *sb.* App. by confusion with *Meinie*, used for: Company, host, flock; (one's) retinue or following. *Obs.*" Examples from Foxe on.

So it is not always easy to say whether we are dealing with *Many* or *Meinie*.

Turning to a later part of the work, we find over a column on *Meinie*, marked "*Obs. exc. arch.*", with its various spellings from the 13th century on, going back to O. F. *meynē*, *mesnie*, earlier *mesnede*, with the Provençal, Spanish and Italian forms retaining the *d*, which enable us to go back to a popular Latin type, **mansionata*, from Latin *mansionem*, whence French *maison*, "house", and the note: "In English the word was in some of its

applications confused with *Many, sb.*" Examples are given under seven paragraphs, from the 13th century on, all meanings being traced from family, suite, servants, multitude, etc.

Therefore, when this sense is distinctly implied, it is the French word *Meinie* that is meant and not the Old English *Many*, whatever may be the spelling. An interesting use of this word *meinie* (also spelt *meyne* and *meny*) was its application to the "men" in chess; although long since obsolete, it is found in the 14th and 15th centuries. The prefatory note to this Part, however, states under *Man sb.*¹ 15: "The view that *chess-men* originated as a corruption of *chess-meinie* is untenable, the word for '(chess)-man' in A. F. being regularly *hom*." In these centuries we have also examples of its application to the angels and to the poor as *God's meinie*. It is also used of animals, and in 1556 we find: "You are muche more worthe than a great *meignye* of sparrowes."

The lack of Teutonic words beginning with P shows how much we are indebted to the Latin portion of our vocabulary. Dr. Murray has given a few statistics. Of 2477 main words in the first Part published since our last notice, which Part was issued January 1, 1905, "only *two* have any claim to be considered native in Old English, viz., *Parrock* and *Path*; a few others, as *parsley*, *part*, *pear*, *pease*, *pea*- (in *peacock*), had been already introduced from Latin before or during Anglo-Saxon times. With these exceptions, all the words here included appear first in the Middle English, or the Modern period. By far the greater part of these come from Latin through French, or have in later times been derived or formed from Latin directly". The longest article in this Part is that on the verb *Pass*, taking up sixteen columns, and its senses, uses, and constructions "branch out into one hundred and forty sense-groups". Here, however, we note again the point, above mentioned, that readers have not supplied the *oldest* use of words in certain senses; e. g., the use of the word *pass* in *Euchre* is traced no further back than a description of the game in the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 9th ed., Vol. XVII, 1884. In *Hoyle's Games* (published by J. B. Lippincott & Co., 1879) is found the advertisement of the American edition (Philadelphia, May, 1857), which contains the rules of *Euchre* and an explanation of its terms, among others "pass" (p. 286). It is there called "a German game", from the use of the word "Bower" (German *Bauer*), but in this Dictionary it is said to be "of American origin" (s. v. *Euchre*, spelled also *uker*, *yuker*, *eucere*).

Foster's *Encyclopedia of Games* (18th edition, 1897, 228-254) gives the different kinds of *Euchre* and their laws, explaining "pass" on p. 233. I have seen no older example in literature than that given in the American edition of *Hoyle's Games* (Philadelphia, 1857), but having played the game myself before that date, I infer that there must be older literary examples of this use of "pass". Under *Euchre* in this Dictionary we find a reference to "Smedes and Marshall's *Rep. High Court of App. Mississippi* (1847)", for use of the word *uker*.

But even nursery words have not escaped observation, for we find *Pat-a-cake*, with the nursery rime, and a quotation from the Life of Lord Tennyson (1897): "[He] would play *pat-a-cake* with them". The marvel is that so much has been included, and that every page is full of information, especially in illustrative quotations that might be sought for in vain even in our best dictionaries. A comparison of the words recorded in this Part, *Pargeter-Pennached*, with those in Dr. Johnson's and some more recent dictionaries, is given in the prefatory note:

	Johnson	Cassell	Century	Funk	Here
Words recorded:	425	1844	2379	2388	4720
Words illustr. by quotations:	347	602	785	264	3474
Number of quotations:	1295	1006	2129	348	18039

This comparison speaks for itself.

Several important historical words occurring in this Part are mentioned by Dr. Murray, as Parliament, Parish, Parson, and many others, to which historical or antiquarian interest attaches. There are important articles on names of birds, vegetables and substances. Also, some etymological puzzles are exemplified by a large number of words, of which the origin is obscure, or entirely unknown. Again, certain spurious words originating in a blunder, as *pavade* and *pavon*, the first a misprint by Thynne of *panade* in Chaucer's *Reeves Tale*, followed by others, even by Tyrwhitt; and the second, "a spurious word, originating in a mis-reading by Meyrick, Ancient Armour, III Gloss. of O. F. *panon*, Pennon." This word has been accepted by Fairholt, Cussans, Preble, Ogilvie's Imperial, Cassell's Encyclopaedic, Webster's, Century, and Funk's Standard Dictionaries. Dictionary-makers will have to be on their guard hereafter lest they be caught tripping.

In the Prefatory note to the Part containing *Methinks* Mr. Bradley says: "The curious form-history of *methinks* is fully presented, probably for the first time"; this may be so in a dictionary, but it has long been a commonplace of historical English grammar, as the works of Dr. Morris and others show. The confusion of O. E. *pencan*, to think, and *pyncan*, to seem, and the early disappearance of the latter, except in the impersonal phrase *methinks*, gave rise to wrong forms and wrong explanations of the older forms. Hence we find, from Shakspeare on, such an impossible combination as *methoughts*, used in the 17th and 18th centuries, of which Mr. Bradley says it "probably owes its *s* to the analogy of the present tense *methinks*"; we should omit "*probably*". The forms *my think(s)* and *my thought* are even more "curious".

It will, perhaps, surprise some to learn that the common verb *narrate* was called by both Richardson and Johnson, a Scotticism. The former uses it in *Clarissa Harlowe* with the addition, "to speak in the Scottish phrase"; and the latter inserts it in his Dictionary (1755) as "a word only used in Scotland". The common verb *mix* is no longer explained as from the O. E. *miscian*, as we

formerly thought, but as a "development from the Latin participle *mixtus*". Mr. Bradley says (s. v.): "Our earliest example of the vb. in any form other than the pa. pple. is of the date 1538, and it was extremely rare until Shakspeare's time. Of the pa. pple. itself, the earliest examples are c. 1480 and 1526, the latter year being the date of our first quot. for *Mixt*, v. The O. E. *miscian* (the alleged by-form **mixian* is spurious), which has generally been assumed to be the source of the present verb, app. did not survive into M. E." Cf. Elyot's *Latin Dictionary*, s. v. *misceo*.

But to continue our illustrations would easily fill all the review-space of the Journal. Every page furnishes occasion for them, and to one interested in the study of words, each Part is as interesting as a novel. The fresh information, as well as the absorbing interest, will well repay even a brief perusal.

JAMES M. GARNETT.

English Literature from the Norman Conquest to Chaucer, by William Henry Schofield, Ph. D., Professor of Comparative Literature in Harvard University. New York, The Macmillan Company, 1906, pp. xiv, 500.

Dr. Schofield has planned an ambitious work worthy of the position he holds as Professor of Comparative Literature in the greatest of our American universities. A history of the literary activities in England for the three centuries following the Norman Conquest is no undertaking for the mere linguistic specialist or the enthusiastic critical novice; it implies not only a detailed acquaintance on the part of the author with the whole field of medieval literature, but also well formulated ideas on the progress of learning and the development of philosophical tendencies and schools of thought. Our author has been fortunate in having as a model the manual of medieval French literature of Gaston Paris, and he has shown his gratitude for his two-fold indebtedness for the plan, and in a large measure for the material of the work before us, by referring to the illustrious scholar as his "revered master."

The book begins with an introduction of twenty-five pages upon the social and political conditions under which this literature was produced. Dr. Schofield has laid due emphasis on England's debt to the Norman Conquest for reviving its zest for learning and religion, which had fallen on evil days long years before, and for making its literature one with the rest of Occidental Europe in its literary interests, erudite and vernacular. The influence of the University of Paris as the focus of Western culture; the significance of both the monastic foundations and the secular clergy as intellectual forces; the part played by the two chief agents in the production of the literature, clerics and minstrels, are denoted